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## Potential VIPER Revenue Sources

In times of fiscal restraint, it is difficult to identify funding in a general budget for such large expenditures. However, as identified in the aftermath of the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, interoperable communications was the single most identified impediment to emergency responses during those emergencies. Likewise, interoperable communications is vital everyday for public safety and a funding solution should be sought.

### Funding Streams

The CJIN-DCC&PS VIPER Subcommittee discussed how to fund VIPER during our meetings. In the time we had to produce this report we have identified the dollars needed for construction costs, recurring costs, and possible funding sources. However, the sources of those funds should be researched and validated by the Legislative Fiscal Staff.

Many states are facing the same interoperability issues after the release of the 9-11 Commission Report that indicated the lack of communications was an obstacle in the effectiveness of emergency responders. Interoperable communications is the number one issue identified by states for addressing homeland security and preparing for a terrorist attack or natural disaster. Unfortunately, with the absence of federal funding, this is an issue that must be addressed by the states.

The following assumptions were made:

- The estimated number of radio equipped first responders in the State is approximately 21,900. We determined this by surveying Granville, Iredell, and Lenoir counties to determine the number of first responders and the number of shifts for each category of first responders. The data from these three moderate sized counties was averaged together and produced a 'multiplier' that represents one hundred NC counties.